

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR JA

SUBJECT: REACTION TO KISSINGER APPOINTMENT

SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH QUALIFIED BY SOME MISGIVINGS ABOUT KISSINGER'S REPUTED LACK OF SERIOUS INTEREST IN AND UNDERSTANDING OF JAPAN AND ABOUT JAPAN'S ABILITY TO COPE EFFECTIVELY WITH KISSINGER DIPLOMACY, JAPANESE REACTION TO KISSINGER APPOINTMENT AS REFLECTED IN PRESS AND TELEVISION COMMENTARY WAS FAVORABLE. MEDIA GENERALLY SUPPORTED VIEW THAT MOVE WOULD NOT AFFECT BASIC US POLICY TOWARD JAPAN AND THAT UNIFICATION OF WHITE HOUSE AND STATE DEPARTMENT FOREIGN POLICY ESTABLISHMENTS UNDER SINGLE CHIEF WOULD STRENGTHEN US DIPLOMATIC LEADERSHIP AND BENEFIT US-JAPAN RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. ANNOUNCEMENT OF KISSINGER APPOINTMENT AS SECRETARY OF STATE-DESIGNATE PRODUCED SPATE OF NEWSPAPER AND TELEVISION COMMENTARY DURING PAST WEEK. GENERAL LINE TAKEN BY MEDIA COMMENTARY WAS THAT APPOINTMENT PRESAGED NO CHANGE IN US POLICY TOWARD JAPAN AND THAT OVERALL US FOREIGN POLICY WOULD ALSO CONTINUE WITHOUT BASIC CHANGE SINCE KISSINGER WAS IN FACT CHIEF ARCHITECT OF THAT POLICY. ONE COMMON THEME IF PRESS EDITORIALS WAS THAT UNIFICATION OF WHITE HOUSE AND

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STATE DEPARTMENT UNDER ONE HEAD WAS TO BE WELCOMED SINCE IT

WOULD STRENGTHEN US DIPLOMATIC LEADERSHIP BY RESTORING DEPARTMENT TO PROPER ROLE AND ELIMINATING ANOMALIES DERIVING FROM EXISTENCE OF TWO FOREIGN POLICY ESTABLISHMENTS.

2. ALTHOUGH GENERAL THRUST OF COMMENTARY WAS FAVORABLE, KISSINGER APPOINTMENT WAS ALSO OCCASION FOR AIRING SOME MISGIVINGS ABOUT POSSIBLE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF KISSINGER DIPLOMACY IN JAPAN. WHILE MOST COMMENTARY CONCLUDED THAT ERA OF QTE SECRET DIPLOMACY UNQTE NOW OVER, SOME OBSERVERS EXPRESSED FEAR THAT NEW SECSTATE, WHO REPUTED TO BE IMPATIENT WITH UNWIELDY BUREAUCRACY OF DEPARTMENT, MIGHT BE INCLINED TO CONTINUE HIS HIGHLY PERSONAL, INFORMAL AND INDIVIDUALISTIC TYPE OF DIPLOMACY WHOSE UNPREDICTABILITY AND SECRETIVENESS HAD DISCONCERTED JAPAN AND OTHER ALLIES IN PAST. IT WAS ALSO NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT KISSINGER HAD STATED PUBLICLY THAT HE INTENDS TO CARRY OUT FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN MORE OPEN MANNER IN FUTURE AND WORK MORE CLOSELY WITH CONGRESS.

3. MEDIA COMMENTARY ALSO ALLUDED TO WIDESPREAD JAPANESE FEELING THAT KISSINGER HAS LITTLE INTEREST IN AND LACKS UNDERSTANDING OF JAPAN AND THAT US POLICY IN NEW ERA LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO BE PRIMARILY EUROPE-ORIENTED. VIRTUALLY ALL COMMENTARY EXPRESSED STRONG HOPE THAT DEPARTMENT'S RESERVOIR OF EXPERTISE ON JAPAN WOULD NOW BE MORE FULLY UTILIZED AND THAT EXECUTION OF US POLICY WOULD REFLECT BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF JAPANESE SITUATION AND SENSIBILITIES.

4. ANOTHER AREA OF CONCERN REFLECTED IN MEDIA COMMENTARY WAS WHETHER OR NOT JAPAN WAS READY TO DEAL WITH CHALLENGE OF KISSINGER DIPLOMACY. IT WAS WIDELY AGREED THAT JAPAN WOULD NOW INCREASINGLY BE INVOLVED IN KISSINGER-INSPIRED GLOBAL POLICY AND THAT JAPANESE DIPLOMACY WOULD HAVE TO LEARN TO DEAL WITH KISSINGER'S RATIONALISTIC APPROACH AND NEGOTIATING ABILITY, SINCE JAPAN CAN EXPECT TO BE TREATED HENCEFORTH AS EQUAL AND QTE MATURE UNQTE PARTNER.

5. IN EVALUATING POSSIBLE COURSE OF US FOREIGN POLICY UNDER NEW SECSTATE, PRESS COMMENTARY GAVE FULL CREDIT TO ACHIEVEMENTS OF NIXON-KISSINGER DIPLOMACY TOWARD US RAPPROCHMENT WITH PRC, IMPROVEMENT OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS AND UNCLASSIFIED

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LIQUIDATING US INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM, THUS LAYING FOUNDATION FOR BUILDING PEACE STRUCTURE IN NEW WORLD SITUATION RESULTING FROM EMERGENCE OF EUROPE AND JAPAN. CONSENSUS WAS THAT PROBLEM OF WORKING OUT ROLE QTE ANTIC CHARTER IDEA UNQTE WOULD BE GREATEST CHALLENGE POSED BY KISSINGER DIPLOMACY FOR JAPAN. SHOESMITH

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